

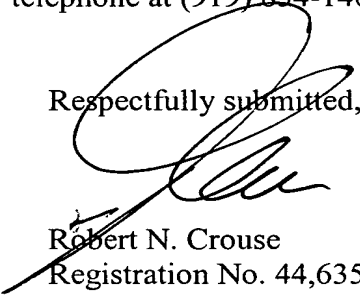
In re: Doh et al.  
Serial No.: 10/659,945  
Filed: September 10, 2003  
Page 10 of 10

### REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the examination evidenced by the Official Action mailed February 14, 2005 (hereinafter the Official Action). In response to the Requirement for Election of Species, Applicants respectfully elect Species I including Claims 1 – 13. However, Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion in the Official Action that no claim is generic as, at least, Claim 1 is generic to all disclosed species. In particular, Claim 1 includes recitations of "nitriding" and "post treating" (such as an anneal treatment, an oxidizing treatment of the like), which are reflected in each of the flowcharts shown in Figures 2 – 5. Accordingly, at least Claim 1 is generic to all species.

Applicants respectfully request the examination of the elected species and the allowance of all claims in due course. If any informal matters arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

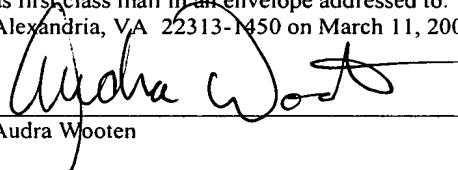


Robert N. Crouse  
Registration No. 44,635

**USPTO Customer No. 20792**  
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec  
Post Office Box 37428  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627  
Telephone: 919/854-1400  
Facsimile: 919/854-1401

### Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8 (or 1.10)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 11, 2005.



Audra Wooten